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Title: Observations of The Shards; Excerpt

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A Chronicle Of The  
Remains of the Gem  
Of Immortality

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As a young mage I  
sometimes pondered the  
power that was lost  
when the Stranger  
shattered the Gem so  
long ago. Mondain was  
nightmarishly evil; he used  
the power of this  
artifact in its whole  
form and single-handedly  
captured all of Sosaria  
under his tyranny. Surely,  
in the hands of one who  
was good and virtuous of  
spirit, the Gem could  
have been used in a  
similar fashion to undo  
the evils of the world? I  
dreamed of a world where  
the Gem served mankind  
and the evils of Britannia  
vanished before  
prosperity. I regretted  
the shattering and  
wondered if another way  
could have been found to  
defeat Mondain and  
preserve the Gem. Over  
the course of my  
research I have learned  
that the dreams of a  
utopia I once entertained  
were the foolish fancies  
of a hopeful youth-for  
today I have seen the  
final piece of evidence I  
need to surmise that a  
dark evil resides within  
the Gem's remains.  
As I have explained in  
past essays, the Gem of  
Immortality was linked to  
our world when it was  
broken. As a result,

copies of Sosaria exist within each of the broken fragments. As previous essays suggest, it is possible that copies of actual people may exist and thrive in different lives within these alternative Sosarias (I sometimes wonder if I have a duplicate in these worlds and how he fares). Although these alternate Sosarias appear to us as small globes within the shards and a great deal of detail cannot be seen, we have learned much. We know that just as the shards themselves are not in the original shape as the Gem of Immortality, the worlds within the shards are also different. Each facet of each shard holds a different world altogether. Through the larger and more uniform of the facets a nearly identical copy of Britannia can be seen, although differences can be detected in the geography of the land within the facet and our own true Britannia. However through the smaller and more uneven facets there are worlds so changed and bent that they look nothing like our Britannia and clearly have a civilization unlike any known to us. In many of the shards one particular facet contains one single continent, wreathed in mountains and with a great white city that can be seen nestled in the center. Another facet contains an ancient looking land with swamps to the south and a desert to the north. I can only theorize that the imperfect and sometimes jagged shape of the

facets formed these  
strange worlds from what  
was to be a copy of  
Britannia. As the vessel  
that held the world  
changed, all elements of  
space, time and magic  
would also have to adapt  
to fit the new form. It  
is entirely possible that  
within each facet the  
past, present and future  
changed drastically to  
accommodate the new  
shape of its facet, a  
sort of retroactive  
continuity. Who knows  
what strange new  
civilizations could have  
been created in the  
distant past or future of  
these worlds?

It also seems that travel  
between the facets has  
become possible for the  
inhabitants. Even though  
physical travel from one  
of these facets to  
another would seemingly  
be impossible within a  
shard, through magic or  
perhaps even moongates it  
is somehow being  
accomplished. Again, details  
are difficult to see from  
our bird's eye view  
outside of the shards,  
but there is visible  
evidence of change in  
some facets that could  
only be the result of  
mankind or some  
intelligent civilization  
arriving. Within one facet  
that I had thought empty  
of mankind, I suddenly  
noticed a castle of some  
sort had been rebuilt.  
Within others I have seen  
roads form and groves of  
forest cleared away. I  
previously found it  
confusing how these  
facets seemed to remain  
completely unpopulated for  
so long, then suddenly  
have clear signs of  
civilization. Now I believe I

have found a clue, for a  
new piece of the puzzle  
has come to my  
attention.

Each shard possesses one  
facet remarkably  
different from the rest,  
one I have named the  
"dark facet". The dark  
facet seems to have a  
shadow cast over it,  
almost as if it absorbs  
light. This facet also  
contains a world, but it  
is one unlike any I have  
ever dreamed. The land  
within appears to rest  
over a great void that  
seems to extend in all  
directions; it is as if a  
massive island rests on a  
dark sea of stars. Could  
it be that the laws of  
nature have become so  
bent in this facet that  
such a thing is possible?  
Did a great magic within  
the world create such a  
place? I may speculate  
for the rest of my life  
but the puzzle extends  
deeper still.

More than once I have  
witnessed catastrophe  
within the dark facet.  
Gradually the land itself  
has broken, as if great  
tremors have shaken  
sections of the earth  
loose and allowed them to  
fall into the nothingness  
below. Each time the dark  
facet experiences one of  
these disasters, it seems  
that all life inside of it  
is also destroyed; the  
usual signs of human  
progress cease and cities  
gradually fade into ruin.  
It is as if no trace of  
life remains yet eventually  
civilization will somehow  
return to the facet and  
the process of  
destruction is repeated  
anew. Now after a review  
of my past notes I have  
come to realize that

every time the  
destruction strikes the  
dark facet, a different  
facet on the shard seems  
to begin teeming with  
life. I now must conclude  
that this great cataclysm  
within the dark facet has  
something to do with  
other facets connecting.

Is it possible that some  
sort of barrier is being  
broken? I am also forced  
to wonder if the  
malevolent shadow within  
the dark facet is a  
reflection of Mondain's  
evil, perhaps just as  
twisted as the worlds  
within the facets.

I fear these are  
mysteries I may never  
solve, for I can think of  
no way to know for sure  
without being within one  
of the worlds inside the  
shards. Although I once  
longed to see the  
wonders of these curious  
realities, I now fear for  
the inhabitants, as it  
seems something dreadful  
hides within their world.